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Cy Sulzberger arrived from Rome this afternoon. He dined with E, Nicky, and myself, and told us some fantastic, but true, stories, especially about his experiences at the South Pole.

April 8, 1962 - Sunday

I set off with Cy this morning for the office, where we were to meet Mr. Dedijer at 10:15. He asked to see me personally before Cy appeared. When we were closeted together in my room, he handed me a letter stating he did not want to have any conversation with his former friend, Sulzberger. This was a shocker to me. He referred to the news that had come out this morning about the re-arrest of his close friend, Djilas, in Belgrade. Somehow, he managed to make Cy partially responsible for this. His nerves were evidently near the breaking point, for he could not restrain himself from copious weeping. Finally, I got his permission to bring Cy in, after Dedijer had prepared himself for the encounter with a heart pill. When Sulzberger entered, Dedijer threw his arms around him and slapped him on the back.

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We then got down to business. Dedijer produced a letter written by "Beulah Hagen" on paper bearing the inscription "Chairman of the Editorial Board" of Harpers. It was addressed to Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, and stated that Mrs Roosevelt was "at liberty to write Mrs. Dedijer that we will not be publishing The Resistentialists." This introduced a new note into the conversation. The letter was dated March 26, but Cy had received no inkling of its contents. Acting upon his request, Harpers had simply said they were suspending publication until the author made certain revisions. We went back and forth for almost three hours. Much of the time, Dedijer was controlled and fairly reasonable. At others, he was abusive to Sulzberger, and charged him with having violated confidences and his old friendship.

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The program submitted by the President to the Congress is necessarily founded on the assumption that other countries are prepared to join us in a new attack on trade barriers. I am confident that the British Government shares our objective of tariff reduction and will play its full part at the appropriate time.

Although the details of the trade program may sound unexciting to the uninitiated, it will represent a major step forward. ~~And~~ Its ramifications go well beyond narrow economic and financial considerations. Trade may be the subject but the underlying issue is freedom. If we progress toward our goal of "tariff disarmament", we will be opening new opportunities of free choice to the producers and consumers of the world. We will also be promoting the most efficient use of resources, and demonstrating to the world's less-developed countries that economic progress and freedom are not incompatible. In the words of the President: "Our decision could well affect the unity of the West, the course of the cold war and the growth of our nation for a generation or more to come". I am sure that the people of this great trading nation will recognize the validity of that statement.

During the next six months, both our countries will be occupied with important developments affecting the future pattern of international trade. In the course of negotiations, or legislative processes, there are often opportunities for confusion and distortion. To the extent that we are fully informed, and conscious of our common economic and political objectives, the possibility of misunderstanding can be minimized.

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